

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki et al. (6,274,887) ("Yamazaki"). In the Amendment submitted on August 12, 2002, Applicant submitted a certified translation of the priority document, Japanese Patent Application No. 11-12280. In order to ensure that the patent office has the translation of the certified priority document, Applicant has included the translation again. The priority document was filed on January 20, 1999. Yamazaki has a filing date of November 1, 1999. Because the priority document has an earlier filing date than Yamazaki, Applicant has properly antedated Yamazaki. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicant's attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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